

REMARKS

I. Status Summary

Claims 1-17 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4, 11, and 13 have been amended. Claims 16 and 17 have been canceled. Therefore, upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-15 will be pending. No new matter has been introduced by the present amendment. Reconsideration of the application as amended and based on the arguments set forth hereinbelow is respectfully requested.

II. Drawings

The drawings stand objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because the drawings include the reference character **S6** not mentioned in the specification. (Official Action, page 2.) The specification has been amended to include the reference character **S6**. Specifically, the specification has been amended in the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 16, to replace the reference character **S5** with **S6**. The reference character **S6** was inadvertently mislabeled as **S5** in the original specification. Based on the amendment to the specification, applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the drawings should be withdrawn.

Further, the Examiner stated that Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art" because only that which is old is illustrated. (Official Action, page 2.) Figure 1 has been designated "PRIOR ART" in red ink in the revised drawings attached hereto. Therefore, applicants submit that Figure 1 has been properly labeled as prior art. Upon approval by the Examiner of the proposed drawing changes, formal drawings will be promptly submitted by applicants.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. The Examiner stated that Claims 16 and 17 are directed to non-statutory subject matter. (Official Action, page 4.) Claims 16 and 17 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of Claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 should be withdrawn.

IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 4 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing the particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. In particular, regarding Claim 4, the Examiner stated that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the phrase “the various nominal zero transition rates”. (Official Action, page 3.) Claim 4 has been amended to depend from Claim 3, which provides antecedent basis for the phrase “the various nominal zero transition rates”.

Regarding Claim 12, the Examiner stated that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the phrase “the central controller”. (Official Action, page 3.) Claim 12 depends from Claim 11, which has been amended to depend from Claim 8. Claim 8 provides antecedent basis for the phrase “the central controller”.

In view of the above claim amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 4 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

V. Claim Objections

Claims 1-15 stand objected to because of informalities. Specifically, the Examiner stated that there is a typographical error in the phrase “digital analog/digital converter” at lines 16 and 17 of Claim 1. (Official Action, page 3.) Claim 1 has been amended to replace the phrase “digital analog/digital converter” with “analog/digital converter”.

Further, the Examiner stated that the phrase “the digital/analog converter” at line 2 of Claim 13 lacks antecedent basis. Claim 13 has been amended to replace the phrase “digital/analog” with “analog/digital” to provide proper antecedent basis for the phrase.

In view of the above claim amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the objection to Claims 1-15 should be withdrawn.

VI. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,920,589 to Rouquette et al. (hereinafter, “Rouquette”). Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rouquette. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 16 and 17 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejections of Claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) are moot. Therefore, the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) should be withdrawn.

VII. Allowable Claims

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 1-3, 5-11, and 13-15 would be allowable if the objections indicated in the Official Action were overcome. Based on the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the objections to the claims have been overcome. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-3, 5-11, and 13-15 should now be formally allowed.

Further, Claims 4 and 12 depend from Claim 1. Therefore, Claims 4 and 12 include the features of allowable Claim 1. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that Claims 4 and 12 should also now be formally allowed.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

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DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

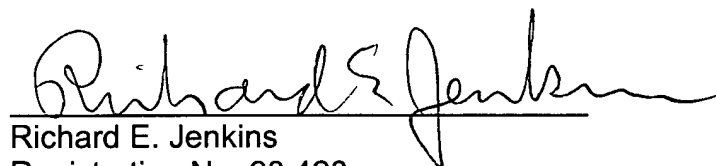
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS, WILSON & TAYLOR, P.A.

Date: May 27, 2005

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard E. Jenkins", written over a horizontal line.

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REJ/BJO/gwc

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes a proposed change to Figure 1. Figure 1 on the drawing sheet has been designated "PRIOR ART". Upon approval by the Examiner, formal drawing sheets will be promptly forwarded.